HACKBALL'S

ADDRESS

TO THE

Venerable Board of Ald——n

OF THE

CITY of DUBLIN.

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Venerable Board of Al——n, of the City of DUBLIN.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Moſt worthy, ſage, and awful Potentates!

I once was told, and was Fool enough to believe; that "Honours, and the Appointment of "Offices, were only in the Hands of the Peo- "ple." But, I am now convinced (and who ſees not?) that the *People* have not only loſt, that powerful, that honourable, Pledge, of their Freedom; but almoſt their Liberty itſelf: And, that, who ever would ſue ſucceſsfully for Preferment Now; muſt *cringe to, court, and bribe, the Great*, the only Powerful Few, who have gotten, into their all graſping Hands, (*How They know*) the *Management* of the *State*, and the *Government* of this *City*.

It has been often ſaid, *Who gives ALL, gives none*: Then, it is probable," He that aſks ALL, will get none." Ambition's Ladder has many Steps: And, tho' many have, in the *Field*, the *Fleet*, the *Court*, and the *Church*, made ſome *Extraordinary Strides*; yet, Honours of high Truſt and Profit, are not to be acquired in an Inſtant. For This Cauſe it is, that I now addreſs myſelf to You, as Candidate for the Place, held by a deceaſed Member of your *Board*: A ſeat *there*, ſeeming to be the beſt Security and Preparative, for a ſeat in the national Senate.

Your own *bright* Example, it is, has taught me, by no Diſadvantages of Situation or Character, to be diſcouraged

diſcouraged from any Lucrative Purſuit. Elſe, my long Dependance, on the Benevolence of the *Citizens*, muſt have cut ſhort my Hopes of Succeſs.

But, *Money makes the Mare go*: And, Intereſt and Importunity may wear; perhaps, or buy off *Your* Inveteracy. For, though the *Judges*, of Our Times, will not, by any Conſideration, be prevailed, even to hear the Complaint, or try the Cauſe, of One they hate: Yet I, a Rich deceitful Knave, need not deſpair of prevailing on *You*; ſince a *Judge* wsa once known, even by *Tears* to be melted, to grant a *Juſt* Petition, and That of a *poor injured Widow*.

It is true, I have not carried my Imitation of You, ſo far; as, to put in for an Office, without any Appearance of Merit: Notwithſtanding the Pattern, ſet me now, by *Two* of *your own Body*, of "*conſcious Innocence*." But, my Merit is ſuch, as None, but *Yourſelves*, will call by That Name.

For though I neither have (on the one Hand) *Titles*, earned by the Practices of time-ſerving Anceſtors, or a —— *Faction*, to ſtrengthen your Endeavours for Me; nor can (on the other Hand) boaſt of a *Father*; whoſe Honeſty, in the like Office brought him into Contempt with You, and ſo made him the Delight of the People:—Yet, beſides my quitting the Party of the Citizens; and beſides my being a Man, held by no Tye, but *Profit*; guided, by no Principle, but *ſelf love*:—I doubt not, to prove myſelf the *fitteſt for Your Purpoſe*, both on Account of my own Endowments, and Your Advantage—

Your laudable Method of *Adminiſtration* ſhews me the moſt neceſsary Accompliſhments, in a Perſon, who would enjoy a Share in it properly, and make a right Uſe of his Power; are, 1*ſt*, An indefatigable Ability for *Eating* and *Drinking*; an high Reliſh for *Dainties*, and an unquenchable Thirſt after *Wines*. 2d. A violent Propenſity to *Silence*, *in Council*; and,

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an Averſion to *Deliberation*, *out of it*: which may prevent a Man's reflecting much on the Probity of an Action; and juſt qualify him, to ſay *Ay*, or *No*! as the *Oppreſſion* or *Advantage* of the *City* ſhall be mentioned. 3*dly*, An Hawk's Eye, and a Vulture's Talon for *Self intereſt*, at the Diviſion of the *City Spoils*. 4*thly*. A *Gravity* and *Solemnity* of *Countenance*, to give the World an high Opinion, of his *Sobriety*, *Wiſdom*, and *Dignity*. For all which, None ſeems (ſure!) more aptly formed, either by Nature, or Habit, than my ſelf.

Not a Paunch, at the *Board*, is more capacious than Mine: Not a Dolt head there, has in it, a more Liquoriſh Tooth, or a Wantoner Palate; or can more jovially take a Glaſs, particularly, of ſweet *Elemoſinary*, the gift of ſome good-natured Fool, or (above all) when purchaſed by the ſpoils of the *City Revenues*. The City has hitherto ſupported my Gluttony: And, I thence have learned, how to ſhare in their Contributions to your Luxury. No *Amorous Knight* ever held the *Rod* over this City; that, during his Twelve month's Reign, could give the *aged Miſtreſſes*, of *Nocturnal Aſſemblies*, greater Indulgencies, or be kinder to the *Fair Nymphs*, that frequent them; than I would: Nor, with more Cruelty and Haughtineſs, cane an impudent *Conſtable* of the *Watch*, for daring to diſturb my nightly Revels, or to impriſon me, or any *Lady* of my Acquaintance; though the *Place*, the *Buſineſs*, and the *Diſguiſe* I may be in, ſhould put it out of his Power to know it is the *L—M—* he commits. Not a *Squire*, of you all, can more readily, than I would give *Weekly* grand *Entertainments* to the Ladies; in Order, to hurt a Puppy, that dare write *Satyrical Plays*; or, to *undermine* the Attempts, of any One, that will be a Friend to the City, or eſpouſe the Cauſe of *Liberty*. My *Baa! Baa!* can as ſtrongly ſignify my Conſent, to *New-Rules*, for

keeping

keeping the turbulent Citizens in Awe; as the temporizing, or Party-led *Ay! Ay!* of the Beſt among You: And, if Ye want a convenient Tool to confirm your Uſurpations and Tyrannous Injunctions; that ſame *Baa! Baa!* will ſound, as pathetically, and as intelligibly in the *Corporation Halls*; as the *Hem! Hem!* the hobled Repetition of the *ſame Words*, and the intermitted Tremour, of any *Alderman*, that of late has given the Town a *Sample*, of the *Oratory* He will diſplay for the City in *Parliament*. I will be as watchful, of every Advantage or Perquiſite, of my Place; as I have been, of new Marriages: And will as nicely ſound Flattery, in the Ears of Thoſe, I mean to cajole; as I ever did a Welcome, with my Horn, to any great Man, that returned home, after a faſhionable *Tour* through *France*; or that was come over hither, to gather his Rents, and ſupply his Expences in *England*. My Countenance itſelf ſpeaks, for its own Gravity and Solemnity: It is of right *Aldermanick Mold*.

My Seat, in which I often ſit enthroned on *Ormond quay*, has taught me how to fill, with proper Dignity, that of a *L—d-M——r*, when it *falls* to my *Turn*, to take it: And, with what Majeſty ſhall I, with what Delight will Ye, behold the harraſſed, the harneſſed, and humble *Citizens*, draw me to the *Tholſel*; as their Kinſmen, the Rabble, now do, to my daily Stand!———My uſual manner of gathering my own Taxes and Revenues, has qualified me for the *Receipt* of *City Cuſtoms*: And, my long-practiced and unſuſpected Uſury, I think, may prove me ſufficiently qualified for the Name of *Ald———n*. My Deſcent and Way-of-Life, none at *your Board*, I ſuppoſe, will object againſt: *Whittington* was once a *Scullion*: And many a worthy *Alderman*, many an honourable *Knight*, and many a fortunate *Gentleman*, has ſprung from the *Filth* of a *Shambles*, the *Grains*

of a *Brew house*, or the *Fur* of a *Butter milk Churn*: Many a Man of Wealth and Honours, has hung to the Back of a *Coach*; and many a polite Gentleman has *danced* at *Puppet-shews*, and run *Races* round the *Green*. Though I cannot write, I can make a *Dash* with the Pen; and, *Alderman Hackball his Mark*, will sound as well, and look as genteel, in your Records, as *Alderman* ——— *his Mark*, *Alderman* ———, *his Mark*; or any of the *Brotherhood*, *his Mark*. And, above all, I have my Religion, yet, to choose; and shall, therefore, make no Scruple of acting agreeable to the Principles of a *Jesuitical Conclave*, though I profess myself a Member of the *Church of England*.

Consider, Now; — This is a critical Time. The *Commons* are on the Watch, to disappoint you; and, it would be but *Biting the Biter*, (a sweet Revenge) to trapan and surprize them. And can Ye do it better, than by electing *Me*? All *They* fear, or guard against, is, that Ye will choose some active, violent, subtle Spirit, to execute your Schemes. But, Ye have enough already among You, of approved and known Ability, to promote the Interest and Power, and to increase the Wealth, of the *Board*: The Town is *convinced* (be assured) of *their* Skill in *ruling* a *City*, *disposing* of its *Revenues*, and *managing* its *Treasures*. All Ye want then is, some easy pliant *Tool*, to fill the Gap now open, and to keep our all Friends of the *City*; One, that has not Honesty enough to condemn, nor Spirit enough to disturb, your *Reign*: One, that will resign the greater Matters of Profit to You, and be content with some such Trifle, as a Partnership in the *Retail* of *Summonses*, with my Friend the *Huckster* in *Fishamble street*. Choosing such a Man, Ye will have the Pleasure of seeing your Aversion, the *Commons*, mortified at such a Disappointment, and having *such* a Man made a *Ruler* and a *Judge over them*: And would Ye choose such a Man, Ye cannot then refuse

to

to fix the Choice on *Me*. A Man of Probity and Senſe, is the moſt improper, the moſt dangerous Choice, Ye can make. What Dependence can Ye have in a Fellow, whoſe Heart is more ſet on the Good of *Others*, than *Himſelf*; and who is more deſirous of *future Honour* than of *paeſent Gain*? Truſt none ſuch! Admit none ſuch among You! Eſpecially when all that have the leaſt Spark of that *Ignis fatuus*, *Publick Spirit*, are eager now to make it blaze out.—Remember the late Folly of one of your *Sherifs*; who, notwithſtanding the Example of his *worthy Colleague*, refuſed to ſit at *Your Board*; becauſe, forſooth, ſuch a Thing is *Anticonſtitutional*, and contrary to the Tenor of that *Scrawl*, the *Charter*.

Exert yourſelves now! Support your Credit, and guard your *well-acquired* Fame and Fortune! This is your Time, your only Time, for confirming and eſtabling your Power, and ſecuring all your Acquiſitions. If ye let ſlip this happy Opportunity, and elect not me, before the *Commons* are aware: They are on their Guard, andwill never give You the like Opportunity again. And, if they be *vigilant*, *reſolute*, and *unanimous*; if they be tender of their *own Honour*, or the *Good* of *Poſterity*; They will take Care that nothing be done by *culled Committees*, and *pack'd Cabals*; nor otherwiſe, than in *full Council*, and agreeably to the *Conſtitution* of the *City*. And, if They do this, and chooſe an *Alderman*, and other *Officers now*, according to the Tenor of the *Charter*, and not of the Dictates of your *New-rules*; Farewel the Sovereignty of the *Board!* Farewel *Arbitrary Sway!* Farewel the Sweets of *Publick Treaſures* and *City Revenues!* Your *ſecret Monday-Book* will then be ſoon expoſed to open View; your Practices betrayed; yourſelves more bitterly inſulted and deſpiſed, than even now ye are hated: And, (O ſad Diſaſter!) all your *New Rules* aboliſhed, and ſcattered to the Winds.

If,

If, then, Ye have any Regard to *Merit*; *Merit*, I mean, ſuch as *mine*; for, None Other, do I ſuppoſe, *Ye* would honour with That Name: If Ye have any Regard, for Your own *Safety*, *Profit*, *Grandeur*, and *Authority*: If Ye would humble the *Pride*, of theſe *preſuming Wretches*, that dare judge for themſeves; that dare pretend to know, when they are injured, or inſulted; that dare ſtand-up for *Liberty* and Right, in Oppoſition to Your long ſucceſsful Poſſeſſion of Sway and Dominion over them: If Ye would choak their Jealouſy, ſilence their Clamours, and blaſt their Hopes: Ye can not (ſurely!) ſlight, or deny My ſuit, Ye can not think, of chooſing any Other, than,

Moſt Mighty, arbitrary, and

Auguſt Seigniors!

Your moſt fawning, temporizing,

Non-reſiſting, Paſſive Slave,

and Flatterer

HACKBALL.

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